

Santa Rosa County  
Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Task Force  
Steering Committee  
May 25, 2005  
Milton, Florida

The Santa Rosa County LMS Task Force met on the above date with 12 members present. A copy of the sign in sheet showing attendees is attached. Hunter Walker said Chairman Dave Ling has retired and is no longer with Santa Rosa County. He said Scott Paul is moving and unable to serve as Vice-Chairman. Walker called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

**Warren Brown moved approval of the minutes of the April 20, 2005 meeting; Tony Gomillion seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.**

Election of a New Chairperson

Walker said there was discussion on Sharon Marsh serving as chairperson, but there is some concern with regards to the Florida Sunshine Law and the restrictions it may place on her interactions.

**Gomillion moved approval of Hunter Walker as Chairman and Dave Szymanski as Vice-Chairman; Furman seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.**

Unified Priority List for the County

Walker said the State of Florida does not want the priority lists to be separated by jurisdiction using the "stove pipe concept." He said Marsh has unified the priority lists and e-mailed the proposed list to all committee members for review.

Marsh said the state could not prioritize the county's projects as submitted. She said the state requested a unified priority list, so she combined each jurisdiction's list into a consolidated list. Marsh said she has included all projects to be in Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding. She said the projects that are not included will be prioritized when Tier 3 funding becomes available. Marsh explained the unified priority list in detail.

Gomillion asked Marsh if she has any idea when the county will know if there is going to be Tier 3 funds. Marsh said funding for Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects will be approved and allocated before Tier 3 funds will become available. Latifu Jenady, FEMA, said Tier 3 will be the last funding to discuss. He said the Tier 3 funds will be available to every county in the state, and funding will be very competitive. Marsh said there will be Tier 3 funding possibly by the first of next year. Marsh said anything the county over applied for in Tier 1 will automatically go to Tier 2. She said there will be a little time between Tier 2 and Tier 3 projects allowing the county time to re-evaluate the remaining projects.

Gomillion asked if expansion of the Emergency Management facility is on a list. Marsh said yes. She said in the unincorporated area, it is the next project after Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects. Walker said if the Emergency Management facility is not approved, it will go through two more hurricane seasons. He said during a major storm the facility is undersized. Marsh said the county can go ahead and define exactly what the improvements will be and have the application ready. She said the application can be submitted as soon as Tier 3 funding is open.

Gomillion said he felt the Board of County Commissioners will be asking county staff what the plans are regarding the Emergency Management facility. He said staff may need to make the decision to do the improvements with local funding. Marsh said we may need to hire an architect to lay out the design. Gomillion reviewed the conceptual plan. Furman said the Engineering Department has an aerial footprint of what is currently there and the internal plans.

Donna Adams commended Marsh on her good job consolidating all of the projects into one list.

**Szymanski moved approval of the Unified Priorities List as read; Adams seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.**

Discussion on Application Progress

Marsh said the deadline is June 14, 2005. She said the formal letters from each jurisdiction need to be completed. Marsh requested the formal letters be sent to her and said she will get Walker to sign them. She said she has the signatures she needs from Milton and Gulf Breeze.

Adams said the City of Milton is using Robin Phillips to get some of the benefit costs. She said they are compiling the information on three other projects in-house. Marsh recommended meeting with the FEMA representatives for assistance with the data.

Walker said Marsh is the county's in-house contact with regard to the grant application process.

Other Business & Public Comments

Stacia LaDue asked about projects 30, 31, and 32 on the priority list. Marsh said project 30 is a Northwest Florida Water Management project. She said it is to develop a software package allowing more rapid access to flooding related issues. Marsh said project 31 is a City of Milton Project. Adams said the dam at Locklin Lake is in disrepair, and the project is to save what is down stream from the dam and the lake itself. Marsh said project 32 is for wind retrofits. She said Rebuild Northwest Florida is applying for a small amount of money under Tier 1, and they will be applying for an additional amount of funding under Tier 2 for low income homes as they are being rebuilt. Marsh said the funding will be for wind and shutter retrofits. LaDue asked how much funding is being applied for. Marsh said \$1.2 million.

LaDue asked Walker if the topographical photography is a duplicate effort of aerial photography approved by the Board of County Commissioners last week. Walker said this is a NFWFMD (Northwest Florida Water Management District) project. He said NFWFMD is trying to combine a package across 16 or 17 counties. LaDue said she wants to make sure there is not a duplication of something already being done. Marsh said it is her understanding this is being coordinated through the state. She said this is something the state wishes the HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) funds to help pay for. Marsh said she is not sure all of the counties will be able to get together to receive the funding.

Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

Walker asked how often this committee will need to meet. Gomillion said the LMS committee is now in a maintenance phase. Walker agreed. Gomillion suggested meeting quarterly, unless a jurisdiction has a need to call a meeting sooner. Marsh suggested any new projects be sent to her prior to the next meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the LMS committee is August 24, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. to be held at the Emergency Management facility.

There being no further business to come before the LMS committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.